

# A FEW RIVER AND CANAL PLEASURE BOATS AND BARGE TUGS



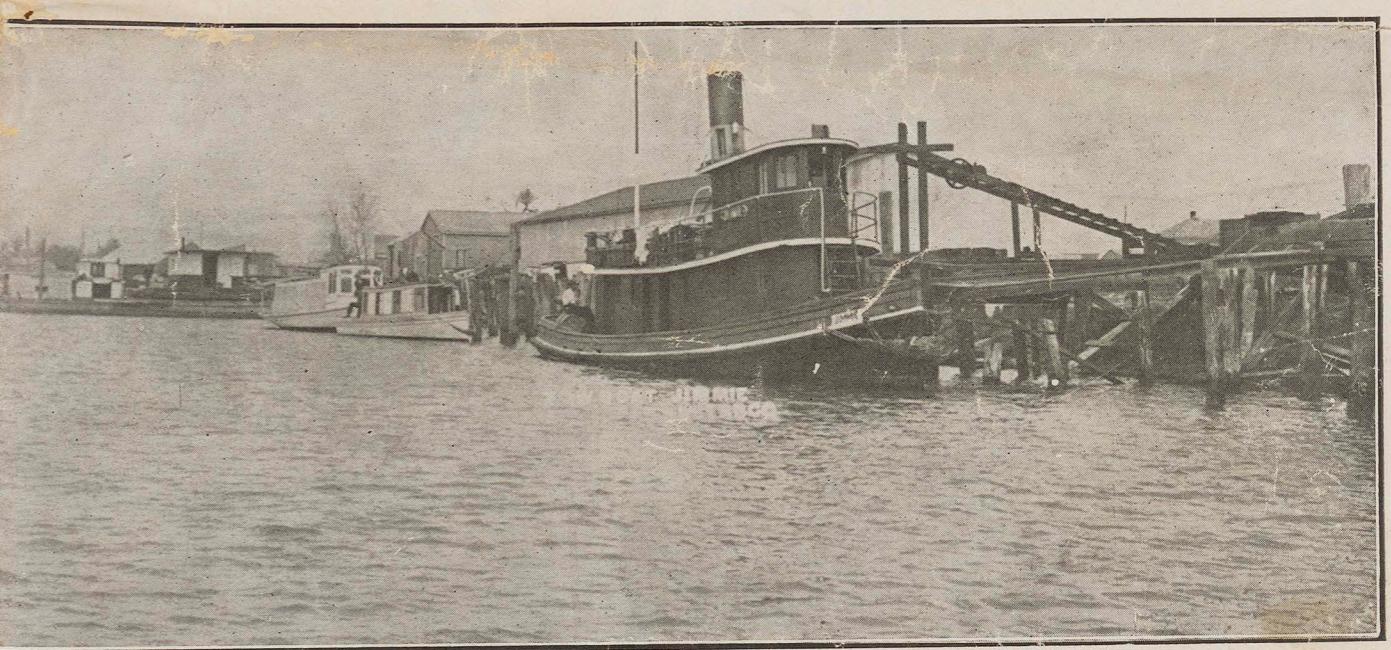
Representatives of Purchasers at Velasco during the Distribution of 2,700 Five Acre Tracts of Land, August 30th, 1909



The Idlewild on Brazos River



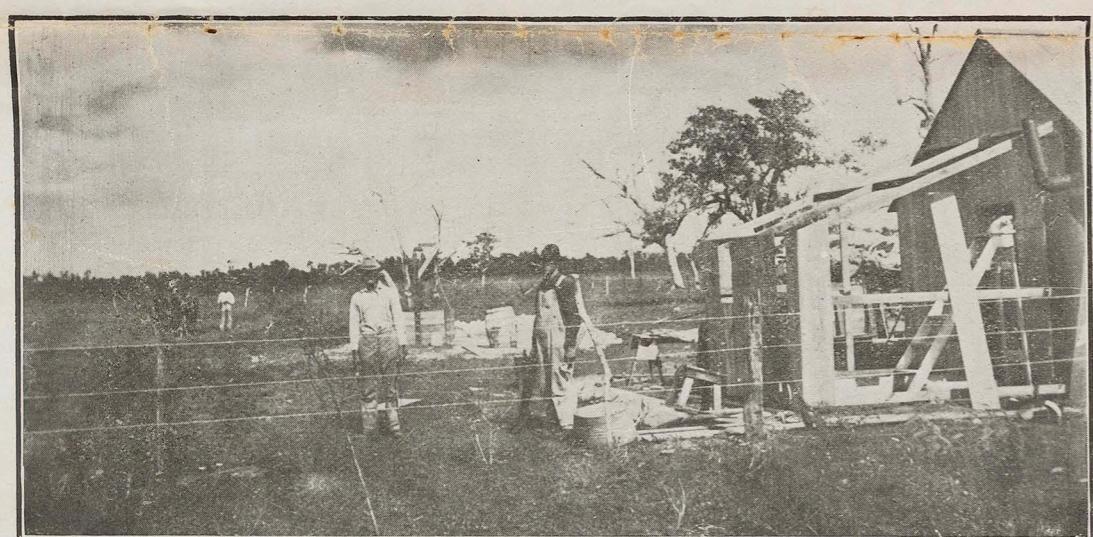
Family Boat owned by Mr. J. T. Dingle, Velasco, Texas



The Red Top, Lucrecia and Tug Boat Jimmie at Velasco, Texas

About 14,500 Acres of Land adjoining and partly surrounding the Townsite of Velasco—has recently been Sub-Divided into about 2,700 5-Acre Tracts. These Tracts have been deeded to people in different sections of the United States, of which a large number are preparing to move to this section at once. Below we give the pictures of the places of the first two to locate.

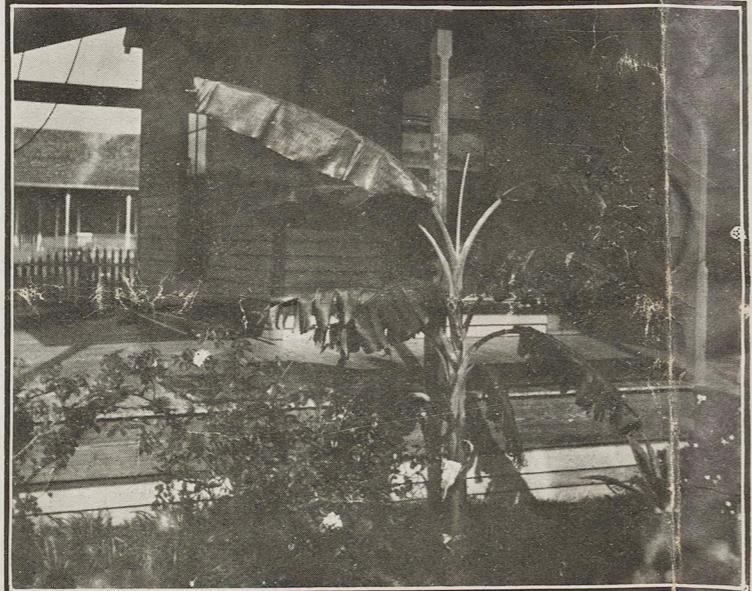
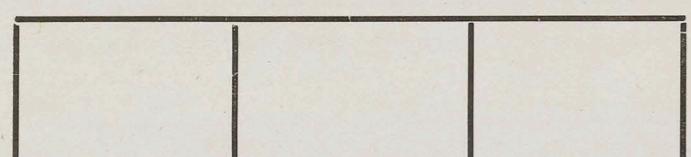
**DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THIS FEATURE ALONE WILL ENHANCE THE VALUE OF YOUR \$60 LOT?**



CUT ON LEFT SHOWS WELL  
IN WHICH FRESH WATER  
WAS SECURED AT A DEPTH  
OF 16 FEET.



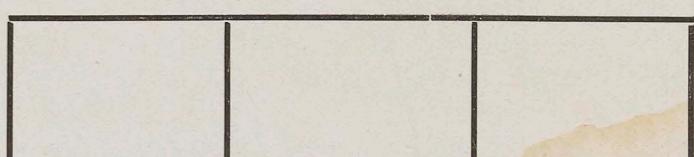
**Some of the things that can be and are grown in the yards of the residents of Velasco**



Roses—Young Banana Tree



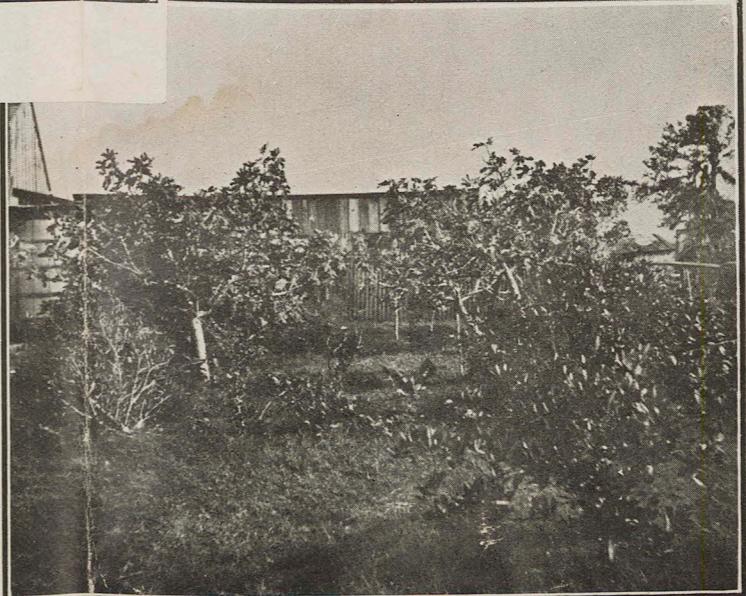
Cabbage Patch



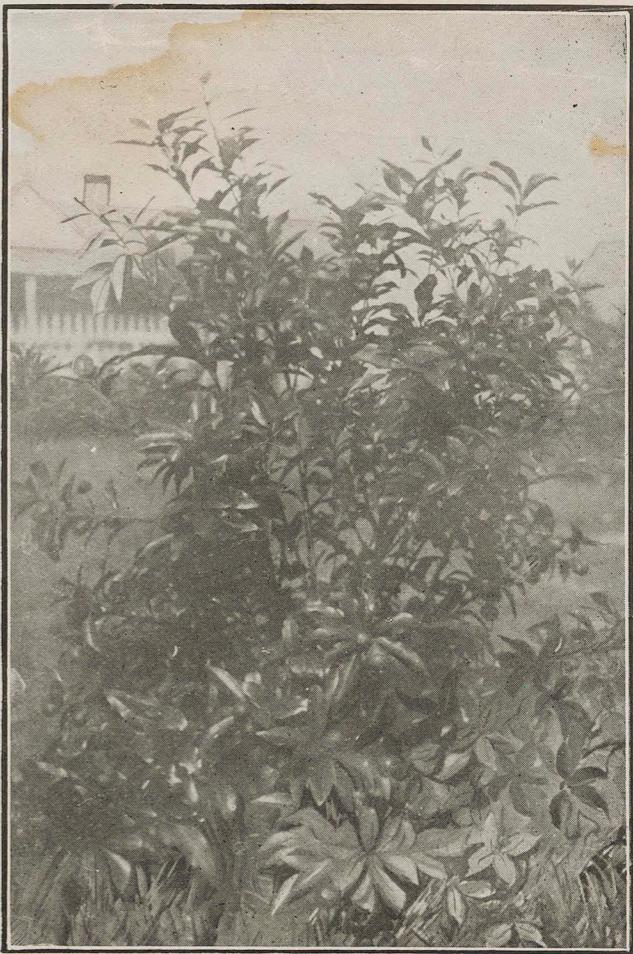
Palm Tree



Satsuma Orange Tree



Young Orchard in E. P. Hoeile's Yard



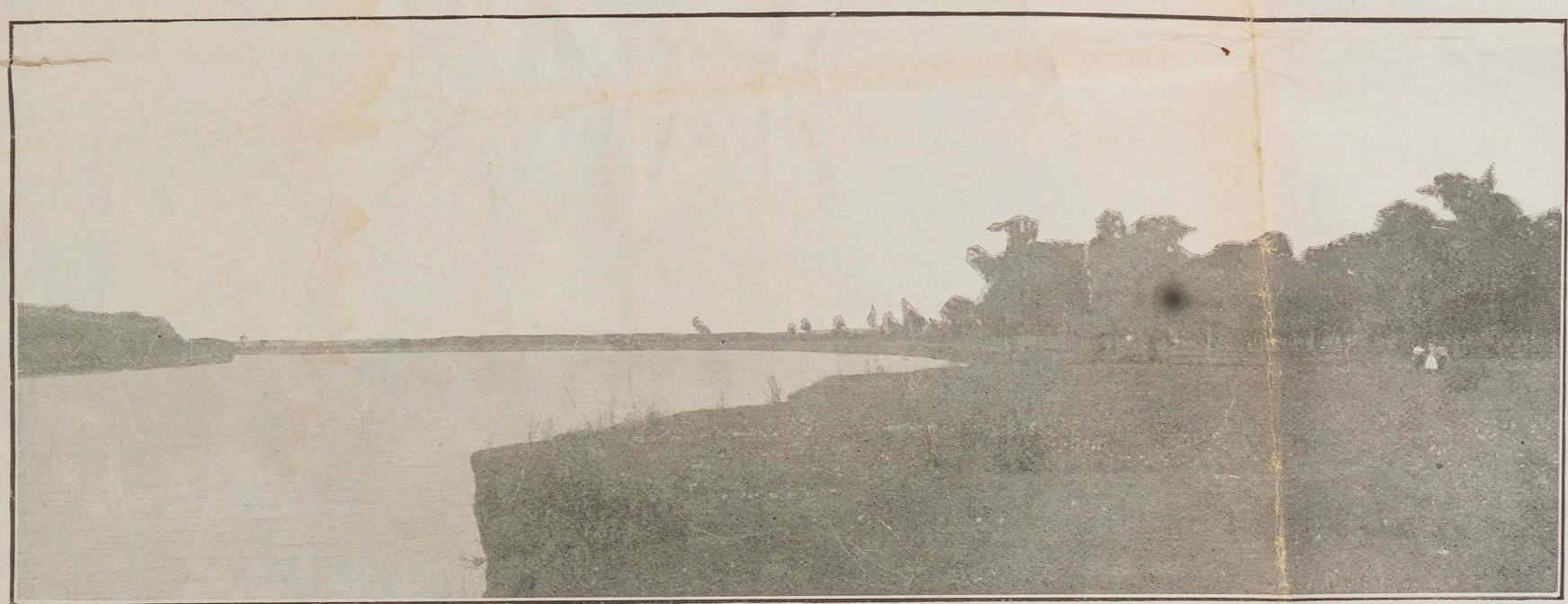
Kumquat Tree

Page HD268, V45 V45 1909

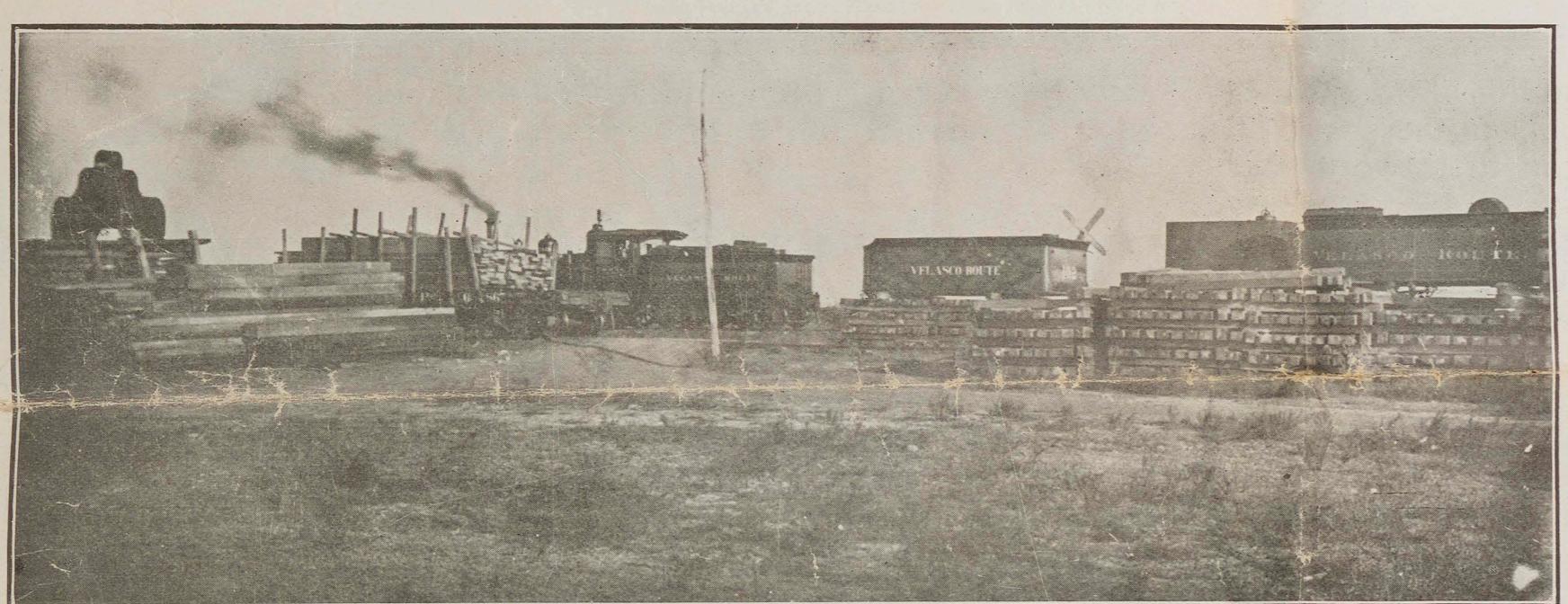
# WHERE CAN YOU INVEST TO BETTER ADVANTAGE THAN HERE AT \$60.00 A LOT?



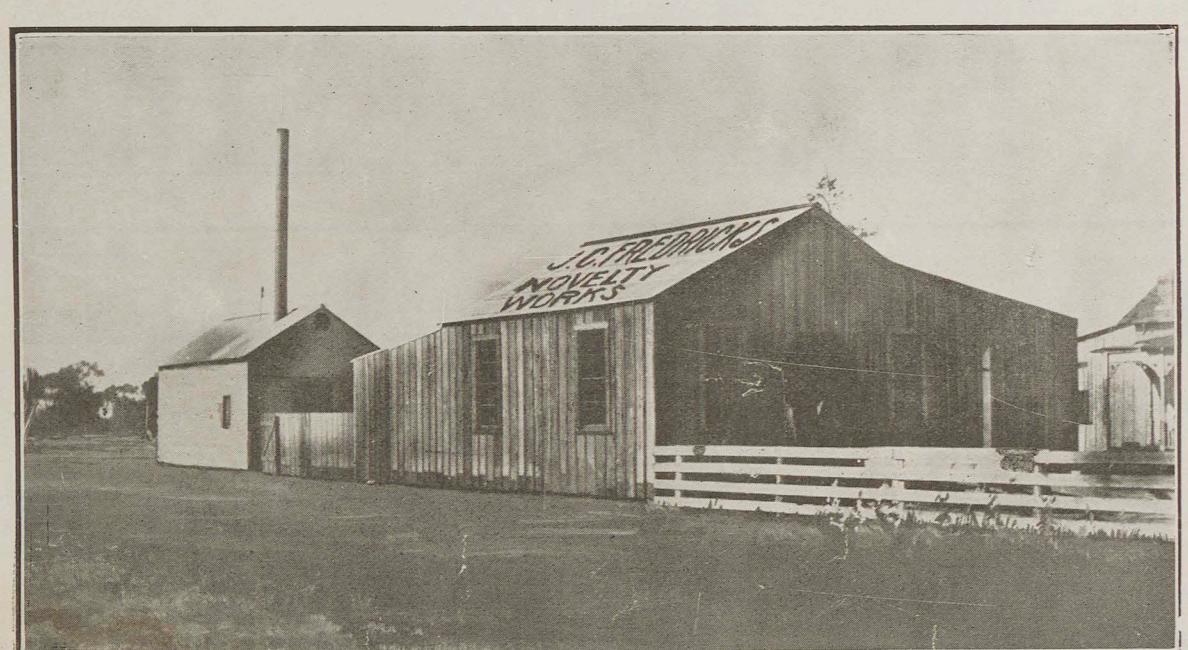
The Methodist Church At Velasco



A View of Riverside Park, Velasco—A Beautiful Public Playground



View of The Houston & Brazos Valley Railroad Yards



J. C. Fredericks Novelty Works

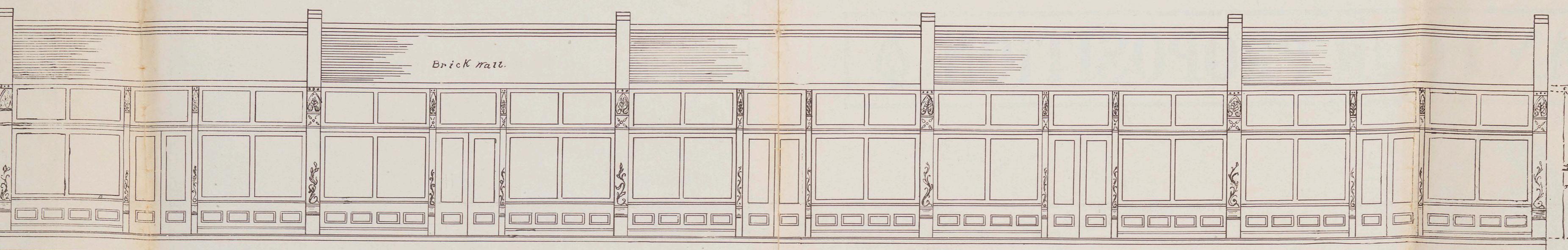


Mr. J. T. Dingle's Residence, Velasco, Texas

"ALL THAT THE NAME IMPLIES,  
DEVELOPERS OF VELASCO"

**VELASCO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, VELASCO, TEXAS**

"ALL THAT THE NAME IMPLIES,  
DEVELOPERS OF VELASCO"



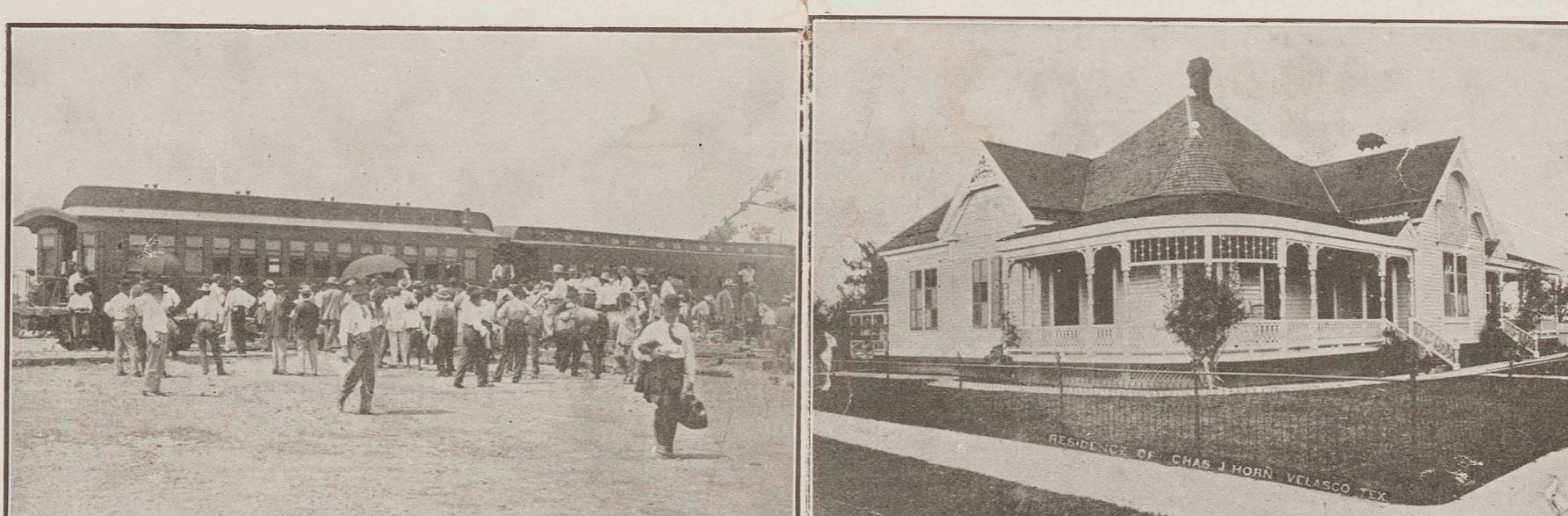
Birck Block now nearing completion, one of the five buildings will be the new home of the Velasco Development Company—(Drawing by J. C. Fredericks, Velasco, Texas)



The Velasco Public School



This Beautiful \$4,000.00 Residence and the Four Lots on which it is Located is Included in this Sale



Prospectors Arriving at Velasco

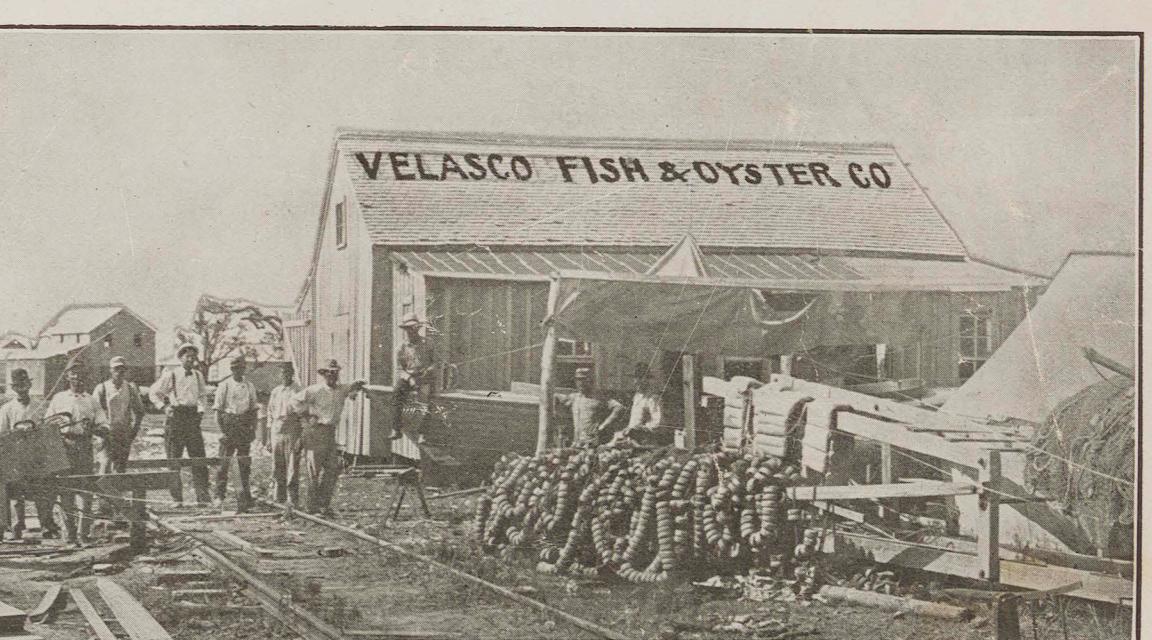
Summer Home Recently Purchased by Mr. F. E. Pye, Pres. Central Bank & Trust Co., Houston



A Typical Home in Velasco—Many of Our Lots are in Blocks Partially Built Up



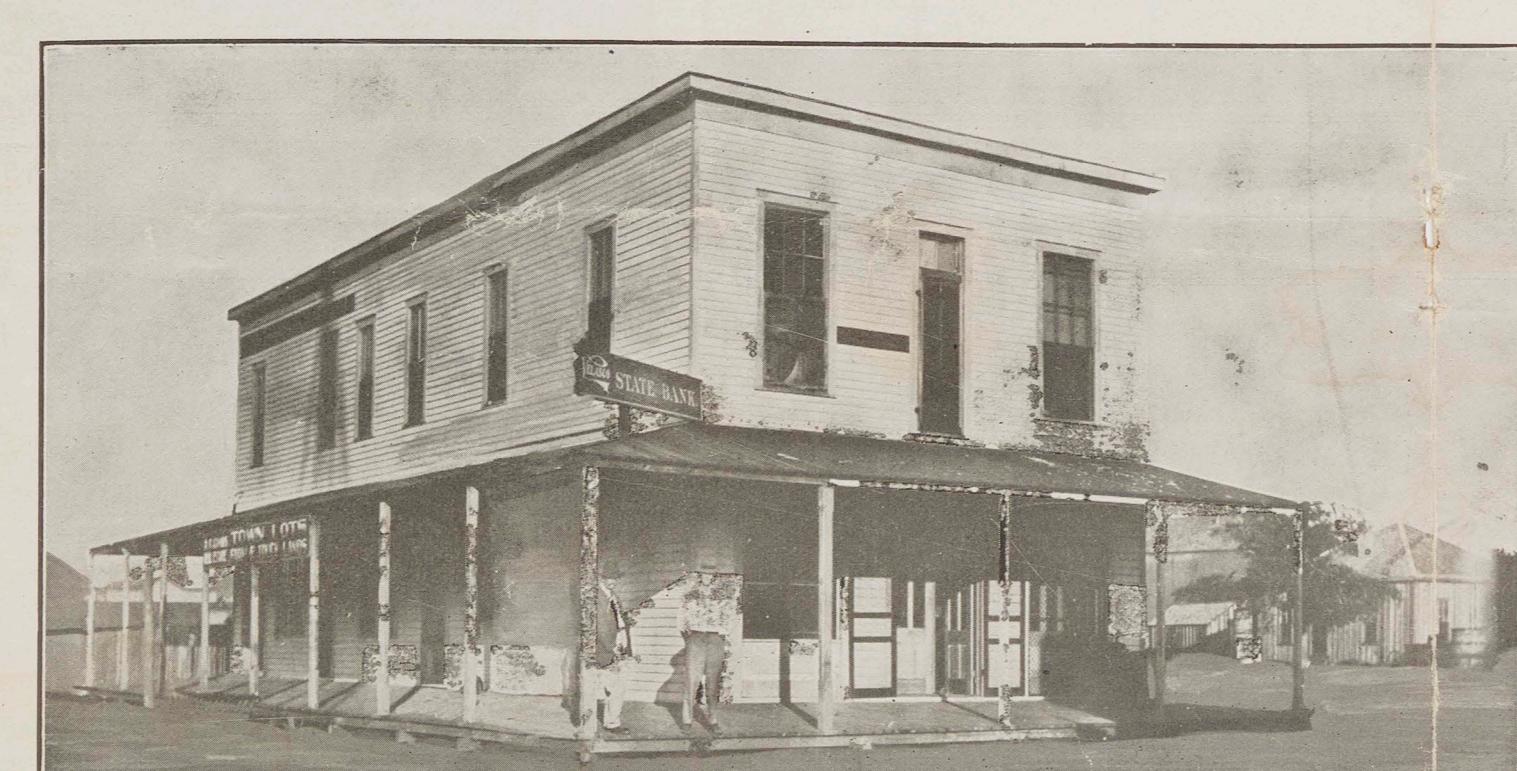
The Roeller Hotel—Showing the Temporary Offices of this Company in the Rear



Temporary Headquarters of the Velasco Fish & Oyster Company

WE ASK YOU  
TO  
INVESTIGATE  
US

WE INVITE  
YOU  
TO BECOME  
ONE OF US



The Velasco State Bank Building



Another Velasco Residence



E. D. Dorchester's Residence

# What a Few Local Business and Professional Men Have to Say

OF

## ◊ VELASCO AND OUR PROPOSITION ◊

### UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE GALVESTON DISTRICT

Office of the Deputy Collector

Oscar O. Nation  
Deputy Collector

SUB-PORT OF VELASCO, TEXAS

Velasco, Tex., 11/26/09.

The Velasco Development Co.,  
Velasco, Tex.

Gentlemen:

Yours of recent date requesting that I furnish you some information about Velasco as a harbor I herewith acknowledge.

In the project of making Velasco a great harbor approximately \$4,000,000.00 has been spent.

The construction of the jetties were made under the supervision of Mr. Elmer L. Correll who was chief engineer under Capt. James R. Eads during the planning and constructing of the great Mississippi Jetty work which made Capt. Eads the most famous engineer in the world. The base of the west jetty is 25 feet wide and the east jetty is 50 feet wide and is built a little over a mile long. The water is now about 20 feet and deeper than has ever been known.

The port of Velasco is a land-locked harbor and the only harbor of refuge during a storm between New Orleans and Tampico. The port of Velasco is the only harbor on the Atlantic coast that comes up to the Government demands as a "Class A" harbor. There are four different qualities required to make a first-class government harbor:-

First,--It must be a Harbor of Refuge in time of storm.

Second,--The channel of the harbor must debouch directly into the Gulf, with no islands, peninsulas or estuaries to obstruct.

Third,--The harbor must have a soft mud bottom, where vessels can maneuver without danger of injuring the hull.

Fourth,--The harbor must be contiguous to the Gulf so that a naval station can be built and operated.

The Inter-Coastal Canal now building from Velasco to Galveston is to be extended from Galveston to Donaldsonville on the Mississippi and from Velasco to Brownsville on the Rio Grande. The last named extension will be of especial material benefit to Velasco. A sum of \$135,000 has been appropriated for the extension. Congress has appropriated \$250,000 for the improvement of the Brazos River in the way of locks and dams, and had a lock and dam finished near Navasota. They will make a survey for six more. The opening of the Brazos to navigation is estimated to be worth a dollar for every bale of cotton raised in Texas in the saving of freight rates.

Yours respectfully,  
*Oscar O. Nation*

Deputy Collector of Customs of the Port  
of Velasco, Texas.



### VELASCO STATE BANK

F. E. PYE, President

S. H. HUGGINS, Vice-President

J. A. TAMPLET, Asstt Cashier

E. D. DORCHESTER, Vice-President

HENRY S. FOX, JR., Vice-President

HOUSTON NATIONAL BANK

COUNTY DEPOSITORY

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER \$200,000

HENRY S. FOX, JR., Vice-President

HOUSTON NATIONAL BANK

VELASCO, TEXAS, Tex., 11/29/09.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I desire to state that the Velasco Development Company is composed of honorable business men principally of the town of Velasco, and the proposition they are now offering I consider, from the point of view of a business man, a strictly gilt-edge one.

I say this in view of the fact that the Government is spending thousands of dollars on the Brazos River, and that private enterprise is directing its energies and capital to the advancement of Velasco as a shipping port.

For an investment, for the business man, and for the man of moderate means I consider it one that will amply satisfy them in every respect and as such I endorse the proposition.

At special request I will add, to demonstrate that this town and community is building up from a financial point of view as well as otherwise, that the deposits of this bank have increased 100% in the past two years.

Yours truly,

*E. P. Hoefle*  
Cashier of Velasco State Bank.



E. P. HOEFLER  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
VELASCO, TEXAS  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN OFFICE

Velasco, Texas, November 27th, 1909.

Velasco Development Company,  
Velasco, Texas.

Gentlemen:-

In compliance with your request of recent date, asking me for an expression of my opinion regarding the desirability of Velasco as a place of residence, and also as to its future prospects, I beg to advise as follows:

Velasco as a place of residence, is in my opinion as near an ideal location as can be found on the Texas Gulf coast, it is situated on the banks of the Brazos River, the largest stream in Texas, about four miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Its climate during the entire summer months is tempered by the cool sea breezes, while the winter months are mild and pleasant, it is only once in every few years that we have a frost severe enough to injure vegetation, and then only the tenderest growth suffers. The country is unusually healthy, and it is doubtful if any other section of the State has less sickness, there are no climatic or prevalent diseases here.

It would take too much space to go fully into details as to the future prospects of Velasco, as a port it has the very brightest prospects and will soon come into its own, but aside from the development of the port, the country immediately contiguous to Velasco has innumerable natural resources waiting for the man with the hoe and the man with capital to develop them, the soil cannot be equalled for fertility and productiveness, crops may be raised the year round, it is essentially a fruit and truck land, but the staple crops, such as Cotton, Corn, Rice and Sugar Cane produce abundantly, especially this is true of Sugar Cane. The many streams and lakes throughout this county, and the numerous bays along the coast abound in fish and oysters in unlimited quantities, which can be had for the taking. The lands along the streams are covered with many varieties of hardwood, also some softwoods suitable for manufacturing purposes, these woods furnish, or will furnish, an abundance of material for years to come for such things as barrel staves, hubs, spokes, hoops, buckets, broom handles, and for carriage, wagon, furniture and implement factories, this timber is all readily accessible to the Brazos River down which it may be floated at a minimum cost of transportation.

Velasco has a splendid public school system, having a large, commodious, modern school building, well furnished and equipped with all necessary apparatus, and for the past ten years the school term has been for nine months each year. The churches and fraternal societies are also well represented, thus, with such surroundings Velasco is an ideal residence location, especially so for the man with a family.

It is perhaps needless to say that the United States Government is absolutely committed to the full development of the port of Velasco, and when this has been fully accomplished, Velasco, as a Maritime Port will be second to none on the Texas Coast.

Yours very truly,

*E. P. Hoefle*



DR. B. H. CARLTON

Velasco, Tex., 11/18/09.

Velasco Development Co.,

Velasco, Tex.

Gentlemen:

You have asked me to give you my opinion of Velasco's natural advantages as a city. First, there is no question about Velasco's meeting all the requirements of the United States Government for a class "A" port, and the only one on the entire gulf coast that can meet with these requirements. Not only has she a natural port but is surrounded by as rich soil as can be found anywhere.

Second, the Syndicate land adjoining and partly surrounding the town that has been held by the Boston Syndicate for years preventing Velasco from drawing and developing her natural resources has just been divided into about 2700 5-acre tracts and these tracts have been deeded to people from all over the United States, many actual settlers have come and more are coming and building new homes and going to work improving this land that will produce vegetables and fruit the year round.

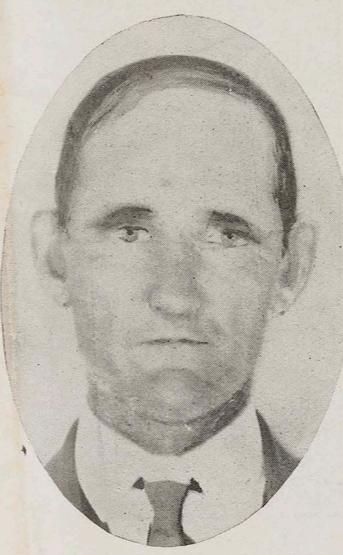
As for water, we strike strata of good drinking water in this country in and around Velasco from sixteen feet to eight-hundred. These facts alone are enough to convince any man who has lived here any length of time that the Lord picked Velasco out with a view to making it the largest city in America.

Now, as to health, we are wonderfully favored as to climate. In all my practice in Velasco in the last eighteen or twenty years, we have had practically no pneumonia and very few cases of malaria. Typhoid Fever is one of our rare diseases. In fact, the vital statistics show that per capita we have the lowest death rate of any city in the United States. Catarrh, bronchitis, and kindred troubles yield readily to this balmy atmosphere and Velasco is the ideal place for those thus afflicted.

Trusting that I have made myself clear on this matter and will be of some benefit to you, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

*B. H. Carlton, M.D.*



CHARLES SKINNER  
PRESIDENT

E. P. HOEFLER  
VICE-PRESIDENT

FRED. M. SCHULZ  
SECRETARY

J. A. TAMPLET  
TREASURER

### VELASCO COMMERCIAL CLUB

Board of Directors:  
J. H. Hill, Chas. Skinner, Dr. B. H. Carlton, Fred M. Schulz  
O. O. Nation, P. F. Combs, E. P. Hoefle

VELASCO, TEXAS, 11/29/09.

TO WHOM THIS LETTER MAY CONCERN:

As President of the Velasco Commercial Club, I take this method of informing through you the numerous owners and prospective purchasers of Velasco property, the reasons that caused me to pin my faith on the future of Velasco and also to assure them that visitors and new citizens will receive a hearty welcome and that any new public enterprise or industry that is legitimate will receive our undivided assistance and co-operation.

Part of the reasons are, Velasco is undoubtedly a deep water port. It is due some day to receive nearly all the tonnage in freight, created for over three hundred miles up the Brazos and also that created as far west on the Inter-coastal canal as Brownsville and that from the east through the canal, which connects with the Mississippi, which with its tributaries will draw on millions of square miles of territory, whose inhabitants are fast coming to recognize the cheapest mode of transportation known.

That we have the finest farm land in the United States and that water surface, wells can be had at from 16 to 18 feet, fresh water wells at from 260 feet to 300 feet and artesian wells at 800 to 900 feet.

And last but not least, that all the good things have not been picked up and the opportunities are unlimited and on that basis we invite you to become a citizen.

Yours truly,  
*Chas Skinner*

President Velasco Commercial Club.

P.S. As to the Velasco Development Co.'s, proposition, I feel that "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." I am a purchaser.



VELASCO, TEXAS, 11/27/09.

The Velasco Development Co.,  
Velasco, Tex.

Gentlemen:

Relying to your request of recent date, I hand you herewith my opinion of Velasco, particularly from a point of view concerning the oyster and fish and ship-building industries.

Before locating here, I visited about every point on the Gulf Coast from the mouth of the Neches to Point Isabel and concluded that Velasco had more advantages for my business than any other point on the entire coast, including Morgan City, La.

We have the finest class of oysters here in the south, barring none. They are equal to the New York Counts and the quantity is unlimited.

We handle in large quantities every kind of fish known in the south, including Pompano, Spanish Mackerel and Red-snapper. We catch Spanish Mackerel for five months of each year for the reason that this immediate coast is their feeding ground; while on the Florida coast the season is limited to six weeks. The Red-snapper banks are about twelve miles from here and are about forty-five miles closer to Velasco than they are to Galveston.

We have already constructed fourteen boats in our yards and expect to build two more within the next two months that will surpass any we have already built. There is an abundance of standing timber along the banks of the Brazos including Mulberry and Live Oak that would make excellent framing for boats and I believe, in the near future, will be utilized.

Our business at this time is about six months old and, while we have handled many tons of fish and thousands of oysters, we have not as yet been able to supply the orders that have been TELEGRAPHED us.

There are several parties figuring on establishing an Ice and Cold Storage Plant here and unless their plans materialize within the next ninety days, we will be forced to construct one of our own.

In conclusion I will deviate from your request and add that this is undoubtedly the sportsman's paradise for the reason that this is the winter feeding ground of wild ducks and geese and at this season of the year this country is infested with them by the thousands.

Yours truly,

*J. E. Hoefle*  
Genl. Mgr.

